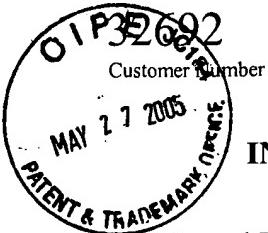


IFW



Patent
Case No.: 59071US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: BEDINGHAM, WILLIAM

Application No.: 10/734717 Group Art Unit: 2856

Filed: December 12, 2003 Examiner: Unknown

Title: VARIABLE VALVE APPARATUS AND METHODS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR § 1.8(a)]

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

- deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
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May 24, 2005

Jody L. Bronson
Signed by Jody L. Bronson

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed is a completed Form PTO-1449, citing references submitted for consideration by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that each reference has been considered.

Copies of any cited foreign patents, foreign publications, non-patent literature documents, and any pending U.S. applications filed before June 30, 2003, are enclosed. Copies of any pending U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003 that can be accessed on the USPTO's IFW system are not enclosed as per USPTO Waiver dated September 21, 2004. Copies of any U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications are not enclosed.

Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Under 37 CFR § 1.704(d), I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

A copy of the Search Report from a foreign counterpart application is enclosed.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

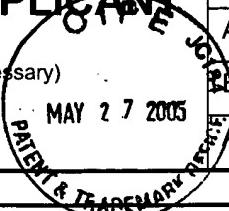
Respectfully submitted,

EWOS
Date

By: 
Robert W. Sprague, Reg. No.: 30,497
Telephone No.: (651) 738-4247

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO (modified)		Application Number	10/734717
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Filing Date	December 12, 2003
(Use as many sheets as necessary)		First Named Inventor	Bedingham, William
Page 1 of 1		Art Unit	2856
		Examiner Name	
		Attorney Case Number	59071US002



U.S. Patent Documents					
Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Document Number <small>Doc. Number-(Kind Code if Known)</small>	Publication Date or Issue Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	A1	US- 6,532,997 B1	03-18-2003	Bedingham, William et al.	
	A2	US-			
	A3	US-			
	A4	US-			
	A5	US-			
	A6	US-			
	A7	US-			
	A8	US-			
	A9	US-			
	A10	US-			
	A11	US-			

Foreign Patent Documents						
Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document <small>Ctry. Code Number-KindCode (If known)</small>		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	B1	WO 97/21090 A		06-12-1997	Gamera Bioscience	
	B2	WO 01/30995 A		05-03-2001	Amersham Pharmacia Biotech	
	B3	WO 05/005045 A		01-20-2005	3M Innovative Properties Company	
	B4					

OTHER DOCUMENTS						
Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published				Translation (Check if yes)
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	C2					
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